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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/738,647	12/15/2000	Henricus Antonius Wilhelmus Van Gestel	PHN 17,798	1569

24737 7590 10/06/2005

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EXAMINER

KUMAR, SRILAKSHMI K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2675

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2005

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/738,647
Filing Date: December 15, 2000
Appellant(s): VAN GESTEL ET AL.

Robert M. McDermott
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed November 4, 2004.

(1) *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences, which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

(3) *Status of Claims*

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) *Status of Amendments After Final*

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) *Summary of Invention*

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) *Issues*

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) *Grouping of Claims*

The rejection of claims 1, 3-6 and 8-16 stand or fall together because appellant's brief does not include a statement that this grouping of claims does not stand or fall together and reasons in support thereof. See 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7).

(8) *Claims Appealed*

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

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(9) Prior Art of Record

5,592,565	Shojima et al.	1-1997
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6,298,154	Cok	10-2001
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(10) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 6, 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shojima et al (US 5,592,565).

As to independent claims 1 and 9, Shojima et al disclose an apparatus for reproducing handwritten input, comprising; an input device for inputting a plurality of handwritten characters (col. 3, lines 22-48), a recognition unit for recognizing a plurality of handwritten characters (col. 3, lines 22-48, col. 2, lines 5-10), a selection unit for selecting a display font from among a plurality of fonts (col. 3, lines 36-48), and a display unit (col. 3, lines 45-47) for displaying one or more display characters corresponding to respective ones of the recognized handwritten characters, using the display font (col. 3, lines 45-47), wherein the selection unit selects the display font based on a comparison of one or more of the plurality of handwritten characters with one or more corresponding characters in each of the plurality of fonts (col. 3, lines 22-48),

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characterized in that the selection unit is arranged to select the font on the basis of the one or more handwritten characters (col. 3, lines 37-48).

Shojima et al do not disclose inputting a plurality of handwritten characters where the recognition unit recognizes a plurality of handwritten characters. Shojima et al disclose where one character is input at a time and is recognized before going to the next character. It would have been obvious that a plurality of handwritten characters can be input into Shojima et al and would be recognized. The selection unit of Shojima et al selects the font based on the comparison of one or more of the plurality of handwritten characters (col. 3, lines 22-48).

As to independent claims 6 and 8, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, Shojima et al disclose a system for transmission of handwritten input comprising, a transmitter that includes; an input device for inputting a plurality handwritten characters (col. 3, line 53-col. 4, line 24), a recognition unit for recognizing the plurality handwritten characters and representing them as one or more respective character codes (col. 3, lines 22-48, col. 2, lines 5-10), a selection unit for selecting a select font from a plurality of predefined fonts, based on a comparison of one or more characters of the handwritten characters with one or more corresponding characters in each of the plurality of fonts (col. 3, lines 22-48), and transmission means for transmitting the one or more characters codes and a font identification of the selected font to a transmission medium (col. 3, lines 22-48), and a receiver (col. 3, lines 22-48) that includes, receiving means for receiving the one or more character codes and the font identification from the transmission medium (col. 2, lines 22-48) and a display unit (col. 3, lines 45-47) for on a display device in the selected font displaying one or more display characters corresponding to respective ones of the character codes, characterized in that the selection unit is

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arranged to select the font on the basis of the one or more handwritten characters (col. 5, line 30- col. 6, line 9, 37-56) using a display font corresponding to the font identification of the select font (col. 3, lines 22-48).

Shojima et al disclose where one character is input at a time and is recognized before going to the next character. It would have been obvious that a plurality of handwritten characters can be input into Shojima et al and would be recognized as is shown by Fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 22-48, where the input stroke processing unit recognizes the next handwritten input and is cycled back to recognize the following input. The selection unit of Shojima et al selects the font based on the comparison of one or more of the plurality of handwritten characters (col. 3, lines 22-48).

As to dependent claim 10, limitations of claim 9, further comprising, wherein the font is selected when a predetermined number of characters have been recognized (col. 4, lines 25-35).

As to dependent claim 11, limitations of claim 9, further comprising, a computer program (col. 3, lines 22-35)

As to dependent claim 12, limitations of claim 11, further comprising, a tangible medium carrying the computer program (col. 3, lines 22-35).

3. Claims 3-5 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shojima et al as applied to claims 1, 6, 8 and 9 above, and further in view of Cok (US 6,298,154).

As to dependent claims 3, 13-16, limitations of claims 1, 6, 8 and 9, further comprising, a creation unit for creating a new font on the basis of the plurality of hand written characters, and the creation unit is arranged to create the font on the basis of averaging character characteristics over a number of handwritten characters. Shojima et al do not disclose a creation unit. Cok

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discloses a creation unit in Figs. 4-6, col. 4, lines 53-col. 5, lines 10. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the creation unit of Cok into that of Shojima et al as Shojima et al disclose a personal font directory, which can be used to store personal fonts. This personal directory of Shojima et al with the creation unit is advantageous as it allows the user to create and utilize a unique font based on certain handwritten characteristics.

As to dependent claim 4, limitations of claim 1, further comprising, comprising a segmentation unit for segmenting the inputted handwritten characters into one or more words ((col. 2, lines 11-30, 56-61), and a spell check unit for verifying the presence of the one or more words in an electronic dictionary. Shojima et al and Cok do not disclose a spell check unit. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have a spell check unit. It is known in the art that most computer systems with an operating system and word processing have spell check feature as it is advantageous for users writing important reports/documents etc.

As to dependent claim 5, limitations of claims 1, 6, 8 and 9, and further comprising, a further input device for inputting further characters, wherein the display unit is configured to display one or more display characters corresponding to respective ones of the further characters using the display font (col. 3, lines 22-48, col. 5, line 30-col. 6, line 9, 37-56)

(11) *Response to Argument*

With respect to Applicant's arguments where Shojima does not teach a selection unit for selecting a display font from among a plurality of fonts, based on a comparison of one or more of the plurality of handwritten characters with one or more corresponding characters in each of the plurality of fonts, Examiner, respectfully, disagrees.

Shojima et al in the abstract, disclose a handwritten character recognition apparatus with a personal dictionary preparation function that has a character recognition unit for comparing an input handwritten character with a standard font directory to recognize similar character pattern and a display unit for selecting and displaying a display font corresponding to the recognized character. Shojima et al disclose in col. 4, lines 25-26, where a recognition step is carried out by a pattern matching method.

Further, Shojima et al disclose in the abstract, a display unit for selecting and displaying a display font corresponding to the recognized character pattern. Further, in col. 3, lines 45-48, Shojima discloses where the result of the recognition of the hand written input character is selected and displayed. Clearly, in order for Shojima et al to display the display font corresponding to the recognized character pattern, the font would have to be selected.

On page 7 of the Appeal Brief, Applicants disclose the absence of the word “font” in the cited text. Shojima et al disclose “character” which can be interchanged with the word “font”.

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With respect Applicant's arguments in regards to where Shojima et al fail to disclose a creation unit, the prior art Cok discloses a creation unit in Figs. 4-6, col. 4, lines 53-col. 5, lines 10. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the creation unit of Cok into that of Shojima et al as Shojima et al disclose a personal font directory, which can be used to store personal fonts. This personal directory of Shojima et al with the creation unit is advantageous as it allows the user to create and utilize a unique font based on certain handwritten characteristics.

As shown above, Shojima et al in combination with Cok disclose an apparatus comprising a selection unit to select fonts displayed based on the comparison of one or more handwritten characters and a creation unit to create a font based on the handwritten input.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

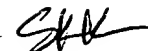
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Respectfully submitted,



Srilakshmi K. Kumar



Examiner

Art Unit 2675

SKK 
August 23, 2005

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